The following is a complete listing of claims and replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the present application:

Claims 1-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (previously presented): A data processing apparatus according to claim 36, further comprising a transmitter unit, adapted for transmitting the print data and an instruction to execute printing of the print data to the selected image processing apparatus.

Claim 13 (previously presented): A data processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the selector unit selects an image processing apparatus with a lowest cost.

Claim 14 (previously presented): A data processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the print data includes data in portable document format (PDF).

Claim 15 (previously presented): A data processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the selector unit uses, as a condition for selecting an image processing apparatus, printing condition data associated with the print data received through the network including at least one of a size of paper, a type of paper, whether or not a two-sided printing is conducted, whether or not a binding process is conducted after

printing, whether or not a stapling process is conducted after printing, a method of delivery after printing, and a number of prints.

Claim 16 (previously presented): A data processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the selector unit uses, as a condition for selecting an image processing apparatus, at least one of a number of pages of images and a consumption amount of consumables.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A data processing apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the selector unit uses, as a condition for selecting an image processing apparatus, a rate of black and white image and color image to be formed.

Claims 18-21 (canceled)

Claim 22 (previously presented): A method according to claim 37, further comprising transmitting to the selected image processing apparatus the print data and an instruction to execute printing of the print data.

Claim 23 (previously presented): A method according to claim 37, wherein the selecting step selects an image processing apparatus with a lowest cost.

Claim 24 (previously presented): A method according to claim 37, wherein the print data includes data in portable document format (PDF).

Claim 25 (previously presented): A method according to claim 37, wherein the selecting step uses, as a condition for selecting an image processing apparatus, printing condition data associated with the print data received through the network including at least one of a size of paper, a type of paper, whether or not a two-sided printing is conducted, whether or not a binding process is conducted after printing, whether or not a stapling process is conducted after printing, a method of delivery after printing, and a number of prints.

Claim 26 (previously presented): A method according to claim 37, wherein the selecting step uses, as a condition for selecting an image processing apparatus, at least one of a number of pages of images and a consumption amount of consumables.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A method according to claim 37, wherein the selecting step uses, as a condition for selecting an image processing apparatus, a rate of black and white image and color image to be formed.

Claims 28-32 (canceled)

Claim 33 (previously presented): A computer program according to claim 38, further comprising:

program code for transmitting to the selected image processing apparatus the print data and an instruction to execute printing of the print data.

Claim 34 (previously presented): A computer readable memory that stores the computer program recited in claim 38.

Claim 35 (previously presented): A computer readable memory that stores the computer program recited in claim 33.

Claim 36 (previously presented): A data processing apparatus adapted for communicating with a client and a plurality of image processing apparatuses through a network, comprising:

a storage unit, adapted for storing data representing characteristics of each of the plurality of image processing apparatuses;

a reception unit, adapted for receiving print data through the network, the print data being in a format non-specific to the plurality of image processing apparatuses;

a generating unit, adapted for generating a plurality of image data from the print data based on characteristics of the plurality of image processing apparatuses, each image data being specific to one of the plurality of image processing apparatuses, and for generating, based on the plurality of image data, cost estimate data representing a cost required for producing an image from the print data by each image processing apparatus; and

a selector unit, adapted for selecting one of the plurality of image processing apparatuses based on the cost estimate data.

Claim 37 (previously presented): A method for processing data in a data processing apparatus in communication with a plurality of image processing apparatuses through a network, comprising:

storing data representing characteristics of each of the plurality of image processing apparatuses;

receiving print data through the network, the print data being in a format non-specific to the plurality of image processing apparatuses;

generating a plurality of image data from the print data based on characteristics of the plurality of image processing apparatuses, each image data being specific to one of the plurality of image processing apparatuses;

generating, based on the plurality of image data, cost estimate data representing a cost required for producing an image from the print data by each image processing apparatus; and

selecting one of the plurality of image processing apparatuses based on the cost estimate data.

Claim 38 (previously presented): A computer program executed by a computer of a data processing apparatus adapted for communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses through a network, comprising:

program code for receiving print data through the network, the print data being in a format non-specific to the plurality of image processing apparatuses;

program code for generating a plurality of image data from the print data based on stored data representing characteristics of the plurality of image processing apparatuses, each image data being specific to one of the plurality of image processing apparatuses;

program code for generating, based on the plurality of image data, cost estimate data representing a cost required for producing an image from the print data by each image processing apparatus; and

program code for selecting one of the plurality of image processing apparatuses based on the cost estimate data.

Claim 39 (new): A computer program executed by a computer of a data processing apparatus adapted for communicating with a plurality of image processing apparatuses through a network, comprising:

program code for supplying print data, the print data being in a format non-specific to the plurality of image processing apparatuses;

program code for generating a plurality of image data from the print data based on stored data representing characteristics of the plurality of image processing apparatuses, each of the image data being suitable for one of the plurality of image processing apparatuses;

program code for generating, based on the plurality of image data, cost estimate data representing a cost required for producing an image from the print data by each image processing apparatus; and

program code for selecting one of the plurality of image processing

apparatuses based on the cost estimate data.

Claim 40 (new): A computer program according to claim 39, further

comprising:

program code for transmitting to the selected image processing apparatus

the print data and an instruction to execute printing of the print data.

Claim 41 (new): A computer readable memory that stores the computer

program recited in claim 39.

Claim 42 (new): A method for processing data in a data processing

apparatus in communication with a plurality of image processing apparatuses through a

network, comprising the steps of:

storing data representing characteristics of each of the plurality of image

processing apparatuses;

supplying print data, the print data being in a format non-specific to the

plurality of image processing apparatuses;

generating a plurality of image data from the print data based on

characteristics of the plurality of image processing apparatuses, each of the image data

being suitable for one of the plurality of image processing apparatuses;

generating, based on the plurality of image data, cost estimate data representing a cost required for producing an image from the print data by each image processing apparatus; and

selecting one of the plurality of image processing apparatuses based on the cost estimate data.

Claim 43 (new): A method according to claim 42, further comprising transmitting to the selected image processing apparatus the print data and an instruction to execute printing of the print data.

Claim 44 (new): A method according to claim 42, wherein the selecting step includes selecting an image processing apparatus with a lowest cost.

Claim 45 (new): A method according to claim 42, wherein the print data includes data in portable document format (PDF).

Claim 46 (new): A method according to claim 42, wherein the selecting step uses, as a condition for selecting an image processing apparatus, printing condition data associated with the print data received through the network including at least one of a size of paper, a type of paper, whether or not a two-sided printing is conducted, whether or not a binding process is conducted after printing, whether or not a stapling process is conducted after printing, a method of delivery after printing, and a number of prints.